

County of Los Angeles  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

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August 8, 2007

**TO:** Each Supervisor

**FROM:** Philip L. Browning, Director  
Department of Public Social Services

Dr. Bruce A. Chernof, MD, Director and Chief Medical Officer  
Department of Health Services

**SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON THE MEDICAL FIELD TRAINING FOR  
CalWORKs PARTICIPANTS (BOARD ORDER #74B – MARCH 7, 2006)**

This is to provide you with the third status report on the Medical Field Training Program for CalWORKs participants.

On March 7, 2006, your Board instructed the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to work in concert with the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Los Angeles Community College District, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education to create a customized program in the medical field for CalWORKs participants that will lead to employment within DHS. Pursuant to your instructions, DHS and DPSS, along with adult schools, regional occupational centers and community colleges, identified three positions to include in the program: 1) Certified Nursing Attendant (CNA); 2) Hospital Custodian; and 3) Pharmacy Technician.

In the February 2007 report, we indicated that 21 participants had initiated the CNA job application process with DHS. Since then, the number of participants who have completed the CNA training and submitted applications has increased to 44. Eight of these 44 applicants have been offered jobs with DHS, pending satisfactory completion of background checks.

To facilitate further CNA hiring, DPSS created a list of all participants who have successfully completed CNA training within the last year. DPSS Job Developers are contacting these participants to schedule any who remain unemployed to initiate an application with DHS.

Three participants are currently enrolled in the 200-hour Hospital Custodian training program in preparation to apply for the existing vacancies in DHS. The Hospital Custodian training program is ongoing with open enrollment and, therefore, recruitment of suitable participants continues.

In our last report, we had indicated that the Radiology Technician program was being considered as a replacement for the Pharmacy Technician training. Persistent challenges and difficulties with creating a viable training and certification program for the latter has prompted the DPSS/DHS coalition with educators to seek a more promising alternative. The major concern revolves around the highly complicated examination, certification and re-certification process.

The central challenge with creating a Radiology Technician program is the relatively lengthy period of classroom training required for the position. Therefore, all academic partners are engaged in seeking to craft a one-year program that will provide students with all the elements and knowledge required for successful performance in the position. To achieve this goal, the program will need to be condensed, while retaining all the required core elements. Academic partners are presently evaluating the feasibility of having an accelerated program that will satisfy requirements for the position.

We will update your Board in February 2008 with the next semi-annual report.

PLB:BC:dy

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